

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/994,607

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 have been examined. Claims 1 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has acknowledged that claims 2-9 and 11 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants submit that the claims, as originally filed, are patentable over the prior art of record. Nonetheless, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 3 into claims 1 and 12.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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